

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 EUR-25 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SAB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03

OMB-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /160 W
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R 201331Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3595
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4752

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS REACTION TO US-JORDAN JOINT STATEMENT
AND RABIN NVITATION

REF: TEL AVIV 4724

1. SUMMARY: ISRAELI PRESS IS COMING TO GRIPS WITH SUBSTANCE
OF US-JORDAN STATEMENT, BUT IS STILL TROUBLED BY SURPRISE
FACTOR. INVITATION TO RABIN IS MAJOR NEWS, BUT OPINION VARIES
ON DESIRABILITY
OF EARLY RABIN TRIP. US - EGYPT COMMUNIQUE NOT
YET TREATED IN ISRAELI PRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. ISRAELI PRESS AUG 20 IN GENERAL PRESENTS MORE BALANCED
ASSESSMENT OF US-JORDAN JOINT STATEMENT THAN CHARACTERIZED
INITIAL REACTON. EDITORIALS IN HAARETZ AND DAVAR, FOR EXAMPLE,
EXPLORE BENEFIT OF HAVING HUSSEIN'S POSITION BOLSTERED AT
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PRESENT TIME. BOTH ALSO TAKE GOI SOMEWHAT TO TASK FOR NOT

HAVING REALISTICALLY ASSESSED PROBABLE US STANCE.

3. SOME WRITERS, WHILE NO LONGER AS TROUBLED BY SUBSTANCE OF COMMUNIQUE, CONTINUE TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER FACT THAT ISRAEL WAS NOT CONSULTED. MAARIV(HARIF) GOES SO FAR AS TO CLAIM THAT TEXT WAS INTENTIONALLY CONCEALED FROM ISRAEL, CITING AS EVIDENCE MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND DINITZ PREVIOUS EVENING AT WHICH, ALLEGEDLY, NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT JORDAN STATEMENT.

4. JERUSALEM POST EDITORIAL IS TROUBLED BY LINK PERCEIVED BETWEEN USG USE OF TERM "PELESTINIAN PEOPLE" AND WHAT IS VIEWED AS US SUPPORT FOR DISENGAGEMENT BETWEEN JORDAN AND ISRAEL. POST SEES DISENGAGEMENT LEADING TO INDEPENDENT WEST BANK STATE AND ARGUES IN PART AS FOLLOWS:

5. BEGIN QUOTE. IT IS NOT HELPFUL THAT THE STATE DEPT SHOULD AT THIS JUNCTURE AGREE TO THE USE OF THE TERM "PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" WHICH CONJURE UP, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, AN IMAGE OF PALESTINIANS WHO ARE ALREADY, BY DEFINITION, SEPARATE FROM JORDAN. ISRAEL HAS AGREED TO TALK PEACE WITH STATES AND GOVTS, BODIES POSSESSING SOME DEGREE OF STABILITY, BUT NOT WITH SMALL POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS GROWN IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF MURDER AND VENGEANCE.

6. WE CANNOT FAIL TO LINK IT, HOWEVER, WITH THE FIRST OPEN SUPPORT SHOWN BY THE US FOR KING HUSSEIN'S DEMAND FOR WHAT HE CALLS TROOP DISENGAGEMENT ON THE JORDAN, THOUGH THERE IS, IN FACT, NO ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN JORDAN AND ISRAEL FORCES.

7. "DISENGAGEMENT," WITH ITS ACCOMPANIMENT OF BUFFER ZONES AND UN CONTROL, WOULD BE A LONG STEP TOWARDS THE SEPARATION OF THE WEST BANK FROM JORDAN. TOGETHER WITH EGYPTIAN PRESSURE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PLO TO THE GENEVA TALKS, A PICTURE EMERGES OF A TWO-PRONG PLAN FOR AN INDEPENDENT ENTITY ON THE WEST BANK THAT SURELY CANNOT HAVE ESCAPED THE SHARP EYES AT THE STATE DEPT. IT IS CERTAINLY NOT ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL. END QUOTE.

8. US INVITATION FOR ABIN TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN EARLY SEPTEMBER IS MAJOR NEWS ITEM IN ALL PAPERS. INITIAL EDITORIAL REACTION TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THE PROPOSED EARLIER TIMING IS MIXED. HAARETZ (GOLAN) CITES GOI SOURCES TO EFFECT THAT JORDAN HAS NOT RPT NOT IN FACT MADE DISENGAGEMENT WITH ISRAEL A PRECONDITION FOR GOING TO GENEVA AND NOTES THAT REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON INDICATE EGYPT HAS NOT RPT NOT GIVEN UP ITS CLAIM FOR PRIORITY ATTENTION IN NEGOTIATIONS. GOLAN THUS CONCLUDES THAT WITH THE NEXT STEP IN NEGOTIATIONS STILL UNDECIDED, RABIN MAY PREFER AN EARLIER TRIP TO TRY TO TIP SCALES IN DIRECTION OF EGYPT. CONTRARY VIEW IS EXPRESSED

BY MAARIV EDITORIAL, WHICH ARGUES THAT GOI
WILL NOT HAVE HAD TIME TO TAKE DECISION ON NEGOTIATION
PROCEDURE BY EARLY SEPTEMBER. PUBLIC INVITATION BY US IS SEEN
AS "ATTEMPT TO DICTATE A TIMETABLE WHICH MAY MEET IMMEDIATE
AMERICAN PRESTIGE NEEDS, NBUT IS NOT NECESSARILY IN ISRAEL'S
INTEREST."

9. COMMENT: THE BREAST-BEATING OVER US-JORDAN STATEMENT
SEEN IN YESTERDAY'S ISRAELI PRESS APPEARS TO BE GIVING WAY IN
MOST PAPERS TO MORE STUDIED REACTIONS WHICH HOPEFULLY
WILL CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON THE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS TO
ISRAEL OF STRENGTHENING HUSSEIN ON THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION
ISSUE. NEVERTHELESS, THE EMOTIONALLY NEGATIVE INITIAL REACTION
TO THE STATEMENT, AND THE CONTINUING CONCERN OVER LACK OF
PRIOR CONSULTATION, IS A REMINDER OF THE ACUTE NERVOUSNESS HERE
ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN AND OF THE MORE GENERAL FEELING
THAT SURPRISES THESE DAYS TEND NOT TO
BE PLEASANT ONES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, COMMUNIQUE, PEACE PLANS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV04752
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740229-0327
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740832/aaaabazr.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEL AVIV 4724
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI PRESS REACTION TO US-JORDAN JOINT STATEMENT AND RABIN INVITATION
TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005